

Abstract

The thesis “The Party of Communists of the Republic of Moldova in government in 2001–2009”, written by Veronika Ryantová, analyses the party in this period as a successor communist party and assesses the degree of transformation that occurred during this period.

The party won the parliamentary election in 2001 and despite opposition protests it remained in the position of the main party in government until 2009. The main part of the thesis examines the changes that took place in the party during its period in power, seen in terms of three dimensions of the theory of successor communist parties – ‘institutional’, ‘personnel and leadership’ and ‘ideological’ – and tries to answer the question whether the party remained an untransformed successor party throughout its period in power. The thesis comes to the conclusion that on the institutional level there were only minimal changes. With the personnel and leadership dimension, by contrast, there was some replacement in the highest posts, but the most important figure in the party, the chairman Vladimir Voronin, remained in office until the end of the period of government, so that the character of the party was unchanged in terms of leadership. The biggest changes occurred in the ideological dimension. The party gradually abandoned orthodox communist principles, and by strengthening relations with the European Union it significantly changed its foreign policy orientation.

At the end of the period in government, owing to the transformation of the ideological dimension, the party seemed to be more of a social-democratic party than a non-transformed communist one.